

Birthplace of John Quincy Adams
Quincy, Massachusetts

Norfolk Co.

HABS No. MASS-597

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to:

John Quincy Adams Birthplace
141 Franklin Street
Quincy
Norfolk County
Massachusetts
(first recorded in 1941)

HABS No. MA-597

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MASSACHUSETTS		COUNTY NORFOLK	TOWN OR VICINITY QUINCY
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) ADAMS, JOHN QUINCY, BIRTHPLACE			HABS NO. MA-597
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 141 Franklin Street			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Ca. 1663, with 18th century lean-to		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Samuel Belcher, original owner, was builder	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) John Quincy Adams was born in this house. During the War of Independence, the house was the residence of and the law office of John Quincy Adams's father, John. The house exhibits typical New England saltbox architecture.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) New England saltbox			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The foundation of granite fieldstone is generally original. The walls of the original house were originally wood stud with brick nogging and clay mortar infill (con't on p.2)			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular in shape; measures approx. 36' X 33'.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The main (east) frontispiece is pedimented and pilastered. The west elevation has an early board door with many layers of paint. Most of the windows are replacements having a Federal muntin profile. Roof asphalt covering is over original sheathing, which was laid vertically.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) See accompanying HABS drawings for floor plans. There are two stairways from the first floor to the second. The front stairway is a winder. The rear stairway is a straight run. A third stairway leads to the gable attic from the second floor- a winder, (con'd. on p. 2)			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The house has been heavily altered during its long existence. A major restoration of the house was undertaken in 1897 by the Quincy Historical Society. Some display areas were created during this restoration.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Museum, operated by the National Park Service			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This house is one of the five structures recorded in the 1979 Lowell project, which was co-sponsored by HABS, the North Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service and the Adams National Historic Site. Peter G. Darlow served as the project supervisor.			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Historic American Buildings Survey Summer Team, 1979; Susan McCown, editor, 1983			DATE

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (continued from page 1):

covered by hand-riveted unpainted clapboards. Brick nogging was removed during 1897 restoration except for a museum display area. The clapboards are replacements, having incorrect size and profile. The rear wall of the lean-to is covered with wood shingles. Some original clapboards are still extant on the west (rear) elevation of the original house, now covered by the lean-to. The entire building is painted red. The trim is painted white.

The original house has a purlin system roof, which was raised on its west elevation to accommodate the lean-to. Gable rafters are sawn; lean-to rafters are hand-hewn. Post-and-Beam construction is used. Summer beams on the first floor of the original house run lengthwise, whereas second floor beams run thwartwise. Cornerposts are visible on the inside. Second floor posts are flared.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page 1):

with unpainted walls. Two stairways lead to the cellar.

Wood floorboards are throughout the house and are painted grey, except for the attic spaces which are unpainted. Floorboards are generally random widths except for sections of the lean-to. The cellar has an earth floor. In the rooms which constitute the earliest portion of the gabled house, some floorboards measure up to 26" in width.

Walls and ceilings are generally plaster throughout. Some early lath and plaster is visible. The north room in the first floor of the lean-to have paneled walls painted grey. The Law Office features exposed joists and floorboards for the floor above. Some areas of the original house have paneled walls.

Several board-and-batten doors exist in the attic. Other doors are paneled.

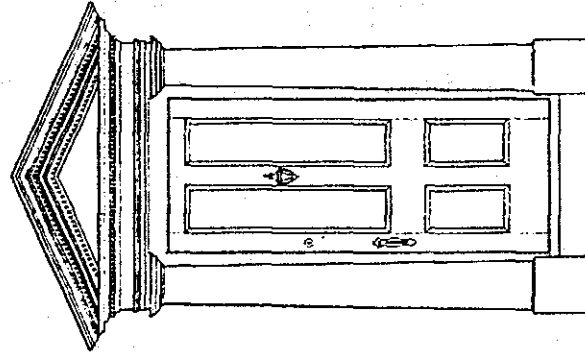
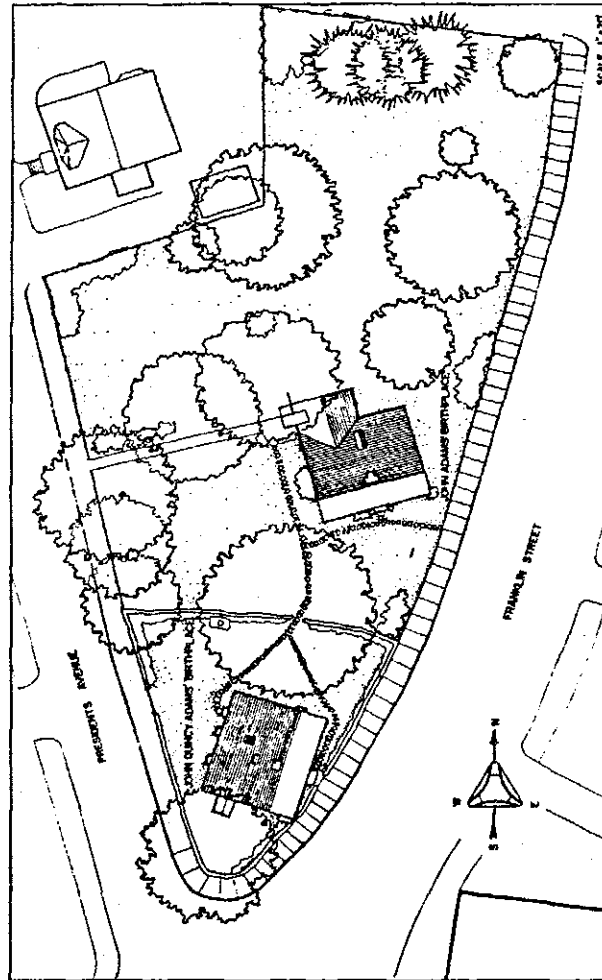
Cornerposts, girts and summer beams throughout the house display a chamfered edge with lamb's tongue stops. The southwest room in the first floor of the original house features a corner fireplace complete with full-length wall paneling, flanked by pilasters.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

For those who are interested in seeing the reduced copies of drawings of John Quincy Adams Birthplace, turn to John Adams Birthplace, HABS No. MA-596. Both birthplaces come in only one complete set of drawings. See following page.

JOHN ADAMS' BIRTHPLACE AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' BIRTHPLACE

THIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JOHN PORPELIER, CHIEF OF HABS, AND KEN ANDERSON, PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. THE RECORDING WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1979 AT THE HABS FIELD OFFICE IN LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS BY PETER G. DARLOW (MCGILL UNIVERSITY) PROJECT SUPERVISOR, LAURA L. HOCHUL (UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE) PROJECT FOREMAN, AND ARCHITECTURE TECHNICIANS KEITH S. ANDREUCCI (UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON), AND DEBORAH K. DIETSCH (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY).



SOUTH DOOR ELEVATION
JOHN ADAMS' BIRTHPLACE
SCALE 1"=1'-0"

THE SMALL LATE 17TH CENTURY FARMHOUSE KNOWN AS JOHN ADAMS' BIRTHPLACE WAS PURCHASED BY DEACON JOHN ADAMS BEFORE HIS MARRIAGE TO SUSANNA BOYLSTON. JOHN ADAMS, SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WAS BORN IN THIS HOUSE ON OCTOBER 30, 1735. UPON HIS FATHER'S DEATH IN 1761, JOHN ADAMS INHERITED THE SMALL FARMHOUSE LOCATED ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY FROM HIS BIRTHPLACE. TO THIS HOUSE, LATER KNOWN AS JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' BIRTHPLACE, JOHN ADAMS BROUGHT HIS BRIDE ABIGAIL SMITH. FOUR OF THEIR CHILDREN WERE BORN HERE INCLUDING JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ON JULY 11, 1767. ABIGAIL ADAMS AND THE CHILDREN REMAINED IN THIS HOUSE WHILE JOHN ADAMS SERVED AT THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND LATER IN EUROPE AS AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. UPON HIS RETURN IN 1779, JOHN ADAMS DRAFTED THE CONSTITUTION OF MASSACHUSETTS IN HIS LAW OFFICE IN JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' BIRTHPLACE. AFTER 1794, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS AND HIS FAMILY LIVED IN HIS BIRTHPLACE UNTIL THEY MOVED TO BOSTON IN 1807.

